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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

BELGIUM.

Report from Antwerp.

ANTWERP, BELGIUM, *May 1, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith abstract of bills of health issued at this port during the week ended April 28, 1900. The only passenger ship was the steamship *Southwark*, which carried 72 cabin and 776 steerage passengers; 14 were refused passage as the result of the examination. Of this number 9 will sail on a later steamer, the decision having been reached that they are not suffering from any loathsome or contagious diseases. Two cases of trachoma and 1 of barber's itch have signified their intention of going to Canada; the remaining 2 did not present themselves. The examination of emigrants heretofore has been fairly satisfactory, but on the 28th ultimo 3 suspicious eye cases were passed and I noted the fact in the bills of health.

In some respects, the conditions at this port are becoming more satisfactory. There was formerly a large quantity of animal products coming from India, South America, and Australia transshipped at this port for the United States. As soon after my arrival as the facts were learned, the steamship companies were informed that such freight from the countries named must be considered as suspicious and that it must be detained thirty days or disinfected prior to shipment. As a result, very few of the proscribed articles have since been shipped from this port. Within two months there have been 2 lots of hides, 1 from India and the other from Australia, both of which had been in Antwerp some months.

The recently issued circular relative to rags has probably reduced their shipment. Certain it is that since its promulgation the quantity offered has been considerably lessened.

Respectfully,

E. K. SPRAGUE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Thé SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

BRAZIL.

Report from Bahia.

BAHIA, BRAZIL, *April 4, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a summary of the vital statistics of Bahia for the month of December, 1899.

This information is compiled in this office from the report to-day published in the official paper.

Respectfully,

H. W. FURNISS,

United States Consul.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

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